

REMARKS

Claims 10-16 and 18-20 are pending. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations its base claim, claim 9, and to recite an additional feature. Claims 11, 12, 14, 19 and 20 have been amended to change their dependency. No new matter is presented.

Claims 9, 11-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikawa (JP 06097656 A (including abstract and machine translation)) in view of Sato (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,455). In light of the foregoing amendments, this rejection is moot.

Claim 10 was previously rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikawa and Sato and further in view of Polinski. This rejection is respectfully overcome.

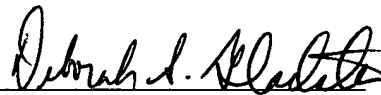
Claim 10 has been amended to recite the limitations of claim 9 and to further recite that the coefficient of expansion of the ceramic materials is between 6 and 7 ppm/K. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited art teach or suggest this feature. The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122019100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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